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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1940



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Wigan Rural District Council



Chairman :

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

S. HORRIDGE, ESQ.

Councillors :

C. BUNKER, ESQ.

H. R. DEARDEN, ESQ.

J. GRAHAM, ESQ.

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., J.P

Clerk :

W. GORDON PIGOT, Solicitor.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT,

Bank Chambers,

Wallgate,

Wigan,

September, 1941.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan
Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Wigan Rural District during the Year 1940.

The Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 2314, dated 26th March, 1941, and in Circular 2067, dated 19th July, 1941, in which the Ministry stated that in view of the increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Departments of Local Authorities, and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, Annual Reports should be curtailed.

During the year, considerable extra work has fallen upon the Health Department as a result of the Civil Defence Services. These Services are working smoothly and appear to be quite adequate. A detailed report of them is not included however for reasons of security.

Although this extra work and the Emergency Powers (1939) Act have curtailed health improvements, every effort has been made to maintain the efficiency of the service.

Towards the end of the year, a Scheme for Immunisation against Diphtheria was introduced. Some progress was made and an account of it appears later in the Report. I am pleased to say that there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of the Wigan Rural Districts.

My thanks are due to my fellow officials and members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

STATISTICS

Population—Census 1921.....	6,296
Population—Census 1931.....	6,168
Population—Estimated 1940	7,820
Population—Estimated 1939	7,458
Acreage of Townships	11,696
Density of Population per acre	1.5
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,268
Rateable Value of District	£39,341
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£153

Births and Deaths :—

	Male.	Female.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	49	56	105
„ Illegitimate	2	1	3
	—	—	—
Total	51	57	108
Still Births—Legitimate	—	4	4
„ Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Deaths	42	48	90

Deaths from Puerperal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis.....	Nil.
other Puerperal Causes	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population	13.8
Total Birth Rate (Live and Still)	14.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population	11.5
Deaths from Cancer.....	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	Nil.

BIRTHS.—The total number of Live Births during 1940 was 108, compared with 135 during 1939. The number of Still Births was 4 compared with 4 in 1939.

The live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 13.8, compared with 18.4 for 1939, and 14.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

The mean of 5 years, 1935-1939, was...	16.7
Year	
1939	18.4
1940.....	13.8
Decrease in 1940 on 5 years' average, 1935-1939	2.9
Decrease on previous year.....	4.6

DEATHS.—90 Deaths, 42 males and 48 females, occurred during 1940, compared with 102 in 1939.

The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 11.5.

This figure however has to be multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.04 so that the adjusted death rate for 1940 is 12.0 per 1,000.

The death rate for England and Wales was	14.3.
The mean of 5 years 1935-1939 was	12.6
Year—1939	13.7
„ 1940	11.5
Decrease in 1940 on 5 years' average 1935-1939	1.1
Decrease in 1940 on 1939	2.3

The causes of Death were :—

	Male	Female
Heart Disease	13	12
Cancer	3	4
Pneumonia	3	2
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	5	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
Bronchitis	2	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	1	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—
Prematurity	1	1

	Male	Female
Congenital Malformations, etc	2	—
Influenza	1	—
Measles	—	1
Nephritis.....	—	1
Digestive Diseases	—	1
Puerperal Causes	—	1
Accidental	7	1
Other Defined Causes	3	13
	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 48

The number of deaths in each Township was as follows :

Shevington	38
Wrightington	22
Parbold	12
Haigh	11
Dalton	4
Worthington	3
	<hr/> 90

CANCER.—7 deaths occurred from Cancer in 1940, compared with 9 in 1939.

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 0.89 compared with 1.2 in 1939.

The mean of 5 years, 1935-1939, was 1.3

Decrease in 1940, on 5 years' average. 1935-1939, was ... 0.41

Decrease in 1940 on previous year was 0.31

INFANTILE DEATHS.—9 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1940, 5 males and 4 females compared with 10 during 1939.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year per 1,000 Live Births was 83

The rate for England and Wales was 55

The mean of 5 years, 1935-1939 was 75

For year 1939 74

For year 1940 83

An increase in 1940 on 5 years' average 1935-1939..... 8

Increase on previous year 9

INFECTIOUS FEVERS.—210 cases of Infectious Fevers were notified compared with 40 cases in 1939.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1940 :

Disease	Admitted Hospital	Total Cases all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	Over 65-	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	12						4	4	3	1				
Pneumonia		9		2	1						2		1	3	3
Diphtheria		2				1			1						
Erysipelas		4											4		
Measles		161	1	6	6	20	15	72	19	10	11		1		1
Whooping Cough		21	2		2	2	4	5	3		1	1	1		
Chicken Pox		1						1							
TOTALS	2	210	3	8	9	23	19	82	27	13	15	1	7	3	4

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows:—

Wrightington.	
Scarlet Fever	3 cases.
Diphtheria	1 „
Erysipelas	2 „
Whooping Cough	14 „
Measles.....	35 „
Dalton.	
Measles	2 cases
Parbold.	
Measles	25 cases
Shevington.	
Pneumonia	6 cases.
Scarlet Fever	8 „
Diphtheria	1 „
Erysipelas	1 „
Whooping Cough	6 „
Measles.....	90 „
Chicken Pox	1 „
Worthington.	
Measles.....	3 cases
Erysipelas	1 „

Haigh.

Scarlet Fever	1 cases.
Measles	6 „
Pneumonia	3 „
Whooping Cough	1 „

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—Towards the end of the year, the Council approved a Scheme for the free immunisation of Children against Diphtheria. The Scheme was put into operation in October, 1940, and I am able to report that there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of the Rural District, and the campaign is being pressed with vigour.

School-Children are treated at the Schools with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, while pre-school children are treated either at the Schools or at the Child Welfare Centre.

The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agents used are Alumprecipitated toxoid to children under 8 years, in doses of 0.2.c.c. followed by 0.5.c.c. a month later. Children of 8 years and over receive three doses of I.C.C. Toxin-Antitoxin Floccules at intervals of a fortnight.

Immunity is acquired some three months after the final injection. The injections are given in the upper arm, and it is most unusual for any reactions to occur with this technique. The children do not mind the injections, and in fact take a keen interest in them when the treatment is carried out in front of the class, as is frequently done.

TOTAL NUMBER IMMUNISED, OCTOBER—DECEMBER, 1940.

Ages.		Total Number.	Schick Tests - All Negative.				
Under	1 Year		Ages	4	6	7	11 Years. Total
	1	Year	1	1	1	1	4
	1	„					
	2	years					
	3	„					
	4	„					
	5	„					
	6	„					
	7	„					
	8	„					
	9	„					
	10	„					
	11	„					
	12	„					
	13	„					
	14	„					

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows :—

		Schick Tests	
Wrightington	.....	50.....	Nil.
Dalton	.....	38.....	Nil.
Parbold	.....	21.....	2
Shevington	.....	82.....	2
Worthington	}	14.....	Nil.
Haigh			
		<hr/> 205	<hr/> 4

TUBERCULOSIS.—The notifications received during the Year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
Age Periods.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5		...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
10		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20		...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
25		1	1	2	1	...	1	...	...
35		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65-over		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
TOTALS		2	3	2	4	1	1	Nil.	

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system was :—

The mean of 5 years, 1935—1939	.....	0.39
Year 1939	.....	0.54
Year 1940	.....	0.24
Decrease on the previous year of	.....	0.28

All Tuberculosis cases were notified before death took place, and generally notification is prompt and satisfactory.

The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Wigan Rural District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own Doctor or by the School Medical Officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtained supplies from the following sources :—

HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	}	Upland
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C.		Surface
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C.		Water.
DALTON	Wrightington		Deep Well Water.
PARBOLD	Own Supply	„	„
WRIGHTINGTON	Own Supply	„	„

CONVERSIONS.—During the year 5 privy closets were converted to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 8 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Scavenging of the District is carried out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon.

The Statistics for the last four years are as follows :—

	1937	1938	1939	1940
No. of Bins Emptied	56,720 ...	54,940 ...	55,830 ...	50,200
No. of Closet Pails Emptied	17,112 ...	17,546 ...	17,750 ...	16,630
No. of Ashpits Emptied	1,385 ...	1,293 ...	1,120 ...	1,240
No. of Cesspools Emptied	31 ...	27 ...	30 ...	25
Total Tonnage	4,012 tons...	4,216 tons...	4,180 tons...	3,870 tons
Mileage	9,200 mls....	8,900 mls....	9,000 mls....	8,500 mls.
Total Cost	£1,049 ...	£1,163 ...	£1,308 ...	£1,623

The method of disposal is by tipping into disused pits or hollow land, and the larger tips are covered as frequently as possible with earth and kept levelled.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Building development, upon the outbreak of war practically stopped. Drainage is discharged into septic tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances in to the Council's sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During 1940, 4 new dwelling houses were erected in the Rural District, all by private enterprise.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 8.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District.....	84
Approximate Number of Cows	600
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	138
Number on Register.....	138
Number of Inspections during the year	100
Dairymen other than cowkeepers	6
Number on Register.....	6
Number of Samples of Milk under Tuberculosis Order ...	20

Results : Negative 20

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are three registered slaughter houses two with shops attached and one other meat shop. Frequent inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

J. G. HAILWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health

